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The Student World

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January, 1921

THE STUDENT WORLD

Serial Number 58

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THE STUDENT WORLD

A quarterly magazine published at 347 Madison Avenue, New York, by the World's Student Christian Federation

JOHN R. MOTT, *Chairman and Editor*

H. C. RUTGERS, *Treasurer*

VOLUME XIV

JANUARY, 1921

NUMBER 1

Editorial

THE scheme for the relief of the host of needy students in Central Europe which was adopted by the General Committee at St. Beatenberg last August is one of the most important and gigantic undertakings that the Federation has ever attempted. Whether one thinks of the tens of thousands of students to be helped or of the scattered forces and comparatively small financial resources of the members of the Federation, or of the difficulty of wisely administering emergency relief, it is an undertaking to give pause to even the stoutest hearts, but the leaders of the Federation have set their hands to the task, nothing doubting, because of their conviction that it is not the will of God or of true-hearted students in lands of plenty, that the students in Europe should be left to starve in body and in mind. That would be a cruel wrong against those students themselves and would decimate the thin ranks of the young leaders who can do most to save their nations from utter wreck.

The response already made indicates that the rank and file of the World's Student Christian Federation in all lands will rally with a certain joy to carry out the resolution adopted at Beatenberg. We have all chafed with impatience and a sense of impotence over the delays and blunders and partisan strife of our political representatives charged with the duty of bringing security and plenty back to the world. We have been eager to help and yet have hardly known what to do. We have prayed earnestly and do not doubt that our prayers have availed much,

but we have longed to translate prayer into act once more as we did during the war itself. In this relief work an opportunity is afforded us and we leap to seize it.

It is almost superfluous to dwell upon the reasons for our confidence in the success of the Relief Scheme. Yet it may clarify our own thinking and enable us to generate confidence on the part of our various student bodies if we set forth the soundness and the breadth of the principles upon which the whole work is being administered. We believe that the five principles to which we here call attention will be recognised by social workers as the embodiment of the widest experience and the latest thought on scientific relief. They might almost form part of a text-book on the administration of relief.

1. The whole scheme is based upon thorough, first-hand knowledge. The Federation Commission on Student Relief which reported at St. Beatenberg condensed the experience of hundreds of relief workers in Central Europe, and their opinions in turn were checked up by questionnaires answered by several thousand students and professors. Of the officers of the work, Dr. Mott, Dr. Fries, Miss Rouse, Dr. Rutgers, and Mr. Hoffman have among them had a remarkably varied and comprehensive experience. The Executive Secretary, Mr. Hoffman, was connected with prisoner-of-war work during the four years of the war and after the Armistice he made careful investigations of the situation in the Baltic States and other fields, and his colleagues have investigated all the other countries affected in Central Europe. Furthermore, the conclusions of the Commission are abundantly confirmed by the statements of Mr. Hoover and Sir William Goode, the British Director of Relief.

2. The plans are prepared on sound economic lines. The prompt but thorough examination of the needs and circumstances of every student to be helped will first be made. The maximum relief for the maximum number of students will be the general motto, but this will not be allowed to endanger the principle of self-help. Every precaution will be taken against pauperising. In other words, the aim will be permanent rehabilitation, not merely temporary alleviation. To this end the splendid enterprises already started to enable students to help themselves will be greatly extended. The example of the Student Relief workers in Prague

will be followed elsewhere. There the Government gave the ground and the money to build dormitories for five hundred men, but the students themselves took hammer, saw, and square and erected their own homes—an unprecedented sight, for brain-workers in Europe are not supposed to do manual labour. Indeed, it is so strange and unnatural a thing for students to work with their hands that it has required the utmost ingenuity on the part of our representatives to invent ways of self-help. That it can be done has been demonstrated by the wood-cutting camp near Vienna last summer, by the fruit picking and fancy work done by the refugee women students in Switzerland, and by the enlistment of student farm labourers by the German Student Movement.

The confidence enjoyed by our representatives in all the countries concerned has enabled them to secure generous co-operation from governments and private parties. In one case, a representative was allowed by a government to salvage one thousand army overcoats and a large number of sewing machines for the use of needy students at a nominal rate.

3. The Federation Relief Administration will make the fullest possible use of existing relief agencies rather than attempt to build up an expensive and perhaps inferior organisation of its own. Among the agencies which have placed all their experience and facilities at the disposal of the Federation are the Friends' Relief Committee, the American Relief Administration, of which Mr. Hoover is Chairman, and the many national and local relief societies in the afflicted regions. It is impossible to overstate the value of this co-operation. It will be many-fold more effective than the most skilful attempt of the Federation to create entirely independent machinery. At the same time it will allow the hundreds of workers of the Federation to devote their entire energies to first-hand contact with the students to be helped instead of using up half their strength in administration. The saving in expense will also be tremendous. Only those can appreciate this who know the huge outlays which would otherwise be required to build warehouses and to handle shipments of food and supplies. It should be made clear that not only will these agencies supply administrative machinery but in some cases they will give money and men. For example, the Commonwealth Fund of New York,

which spent \$500,000 for the relief of professors in Central Europe during the past year, has already given us a large quantity of supplies to be used for students. The Society of Friends has allocated workers to us in Austria and will doubtless do the same in Germany and Poland.

4. The student relief work will be carried on in the closest co-operation with the Student Movement of each country, and with all the indigenous relief agencies. It would be the height of folly to attempt to administer the work by foreign agents; in fact, it would be utterly impossible. Fortunately, the Social Service Departments of the Student Movements in the affected countries have become increasingly effective during and since the war. Their members know intimately not only the general conditions under which their fellow-students are living, but the individual needs and peculiarities of each man or woman who is to be helped. The Federation has at its disposal the finest minds in those countries. Professors, specialists in social work, and even leading statesmen gladly put their powers of heart and brain alongside the money gifts which the Federation is enlisting from other lands. In Germany, for instance, Dr. Michælis, formerly Chancellor and Food Comptroller of the Empire, is managing the Farm Labour Department of the Christian Student Movement, and in every way is assisting its efforts.

In most of the countries the multifarious details of the work will practically all be attended to by the needy students themselves, who will receive food, clothing, or books in return.

5. The relief will be administered impartially without regard to race, nationality, creed, or any other criterion than proved need. We believe that this principle is in full harmony with the spirit and teaching of our Lord Himself. It is not to be a bait to attract men to religious exercises or to win them away from their traditional faith. It is, however, the profound prayer and expectation of all the Federation leaders that this Christ-like ministry will be the means of breaking down the suspicion, cynicism, and agnosticism of many troubled hearts. The whole work will be surcharged with concern and love for human persons. While the needs of the body for food and raiment, and of the mind for books and instruments may receive first attention, that will not fully express the purpose of the Federation, for in the words of our

constitution itself, that is nothing less than to further all "efforts on behalf of the welfare of students in body, mind, and *spirit* which are in harmony with the Christian purpose."

There are many other appalling needs calling to-day for monetary gifts and for personal service. The wounds of the world seem to be gaping wide. The danger is lest we become wonted to the sight and our hearts grow callous. We do not plead that any student should give only to this relief fund, for his fellow-students in stricken Europe, but we do plead that for this year he should give it first place. They are in a peculiar sense our brethren. God has given them into our care and keeping. If one of them suddenly appeared at our door this winter, pale, hollow-cheeked, without books or overcoat, with no human possibility of getting either, who of us would not gladly share whatever he had? And as we did it we should hear our Master's "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least, ye did it unto Me."

Dr. John A. Mackay has requested that as a correction to his article on "Student Life in a South American University," in the July issue of *The Student World*, the statement be made that references in it to educational conditions in South America relate to Spanish America only, and do not include Brazil.

Students in Need

By CONRAD HOFFMANN, JR.

DURING the days of war-prisoners in Germany, it not uncommonly occurred that prisoners whom we urged to organise schools and to take up certain studies, retorted, "Give us bread and then we shall be glad to organise schools." Men suffering from the pangs of hunger, as many of these prisoners of war were, do not make and cannot be good students. In Europe to-day there are approximately 100,000 students whose condition is as bad as that of the prisoners above quoted, if not actually worse. Like the latter, these students are hungry, ill-clad, and cold. They have subsisted on scant rations, entirely inadequate for normal living, for years. Their rooms have been unheated throughout the past winters, and will be so again during the coming winter. They possess little more clothing than that which they wear, and

that is threadbare and ragged after many years of service. But in spite of all they persist in their efforts to complete their university education. For them the love of learning is greater than any and all obstacles.

It is good that they are thus persistent. The countries of Central Europe, including the Baltic States, Poland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Czecho-Slovakia, are all new, either as nations or in the form of government adopted since the revolutionary changes of 1918-1919. They are in a plastic, creative stage. Rehabilitation, reconstruction, must very soon follow the chaos left by the ravages of war. Dangerous experimentation with government prevails. Democracy is desired by some; autocracy by others. Extreme radicalism of the ruthless Bolshevik type vies for control with extreme reactionary policies of the Junker type. In this struggle of forces which means weal or woe for the country concerned, the need of the stabilising influence of intelligence is imperative. For the industrial rehabilitation and economic expansion of the countries, expert leadership and trained technical students are necessary. It is good, therefore, that these students are so eager and so persistent in their efforts, for they are the future leaders of these countries.

More favourable facilities for study must be soon provided by outside help, however, if very serious menace to efficient training is to be avoided. Already many students have been compelled because of economic pressure to withdraw from the universities. Professors are burdened with the struggle for existence; the struggle to provide food and clothing for their families pre-occupies and weakens them to the detriment of their best scholastic attainments. Universities are being compelled to sell their furniture and rugs in order to secure the most essential laboratory supplies and books. Last winter many of the university lecture rooms and laboratories remained unheated. There is a threat of intellectual decadence at a time when education, wisdom, and sanity are most needed.

There is no hope for improvement from within. The only salvation is help from without. Governments, university authorities, indigenous agencies, and individuals are doing the impossible in their efforts to alleviate the constantly aggravated situation. Their efforts, it is true, are confined largely to food relief; fuel and clothing relief are given little attention because it is

recognised that such are practical impossibilities, even though as urgently necessary as food relief.

One cannot easily forget the woman student with hands full of sores who, when asked whether she was receiving medical treatment, replied that for her it was a choice between such treatment and the one meal a day for which she was able to pay, and that the pangs of hunger compelled her to choose the meal; or again, the woman student who wept in joyous gratitude upon receiving a piece of chocolate, the first in years. One cannot forget the many women students going about in soiled, ragged, and threadbare clothes, their entire natures revolting against their seeming untidiness. They suffer excruciating mental anguish, for in better days they were always painstakingly neat and tidy. Now they cannot remedy the cause of their untidiness, for they cannot afford to buy soap and needle and thread, all of which are luxuries of the rich only.

Instances like that of the two men students who took to their beds because of physical exhaustion due to hunger, and were found several days later dead in their beds, seem incredible, but they are well authenticated. Men going about in their old army uniforms, now very much worn, with coats buttoned to the neck to hide the absence of shirts, are common. Indeed, of over 3,600 students in Budapest, seven per cent. were found without socks, twenty-four per cent. with one suit of clothes or less.

The majority of the students in these countries go without breakfast. In Budapest it was found that some twenty-six per cent. of the students live on two meals or less a day. Many have but one meal a day. Even such meals as they do get are entirely below normal calorie requirements. To-day most students eat in the special student kitchens which have been established everywhere; in these, usually one cheap meal a day is served. In Prague 2,700 students are served one meal a day in the so-called *Mensa Academica* or student kitchen. Because of inadequate quarters, it is necessary to serve the meal in twelve shifts.

Practically all cities, especially Vienna, Prague, and Budapest, are overcrowded, largely with refugees from war-swept countries or territories. The result is a great dearth of rooms for students.

Many students are found sleeping under bridges or on park benches, in railway stations, anywhere so long as some protection is afforded. In Prague a prison has been remodelled to accom-

modate a few students; here, too, forty monks' cells in a monastery have been requisitioned by the municipal authorities for student quarters, in spite of the vigorous protests of the resident monks. In Vienna, box-cars and old barn-like army barracks give shelter to many students. In Budapest, forty students were found living in a factory which had been dismantled by the Roumanians during their occupancy of the city. All these quarters are unheated during the winter. Eight students were found in two adjoining rooms with no light. The one incandescent light was broken and among them they did not have the price of a new one, which now costs \$12.50.

Budapest has just closed its doors to Jewish students, with the result that some fifteen hundred Jewish students are wandering doggedly through the streets persecuted by all, but vainly hoping that the bars will be let down, again permitting them to continue their studies. What is to become of them? Who is to provide for them?

Is it not possible for these students to find work? Unfortunately there is no work. Lack of fuel and raw materials has intensified the industrial stagnation following the war. Depreciation of currencies to an unprecedented degree prevents purchase of raw materials in other lands; such raw materials along with fuel are essential for increased industrial activity. Trade unionism, strengthened by municipal and federal regulations, controls the labour market, and with a lack of employment prevailing, it is natural that non-union students have little chance of finding work. Many have tried in vain; at one university, of 108 who sought work only eleven were able to find any.

The students of America, Great Britain, Holland, South Africa, and other countries have already sent invaluable aid. What an opportunity for students to demonstrate the Good Samaritan spirit! Here is opportunity for the ministry of Christ-like love and service. It calls for sacrificial giving. What will be the answer? What will you do?

One trembles lest students able to help fail to respond to this challenge. On the other hand, enthusiasm knows no bounds when one thinks of what it will mean to send the needy students of Europe messages announcing great gifts from fellow-students of other lands for their relief. It will mean new hope, new faith in God and man, new desire to live and to serve.

Lines of Communication

By RUTH ROUSE

THE Relief Scheme of the Federation is now well under way (November, 1920). What has been the response to our appeal to the universities of the world on behalf of needy students, the appeal first voiced in the S. O. S. call sent round the Student Christian Movement in March, 1920, and confirmed and emphasised by the Relief Commission which sat before Beatenberg?

A. The Response has been almost universal.

At the date of writing, Finland, Great Britain and Ireland, Holland, India, Italy, Norway, South Africa, and the United States have got national student organisations at work on relief; Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and Switzerland have already sent in contributions of one kind or other; Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, and Roumania have promised aid; Belgians, Czechs, and Greeks have given as individuals; while international groups, such as the *Foyer International* in Paris and the Student Movement House in London, have secured gifts from other nationalities not mentioned above.

B. The Response has been in accordance with the national temperament and genius.

Certain nations, for example, Holland and Italy, have confined themselves very strictly to an appeal to students for students. In both these countries the plan adopted has been that the Student Christian Movement has called together all the student organisations in the country and formed an organisation from their representatives. In Italy, for instance, the Catholic, the Anti-Clerical, the Socialist, the Sporting, the Musical, the Scientific, and six other societies united in an effort which, by means of garden parties, concerts, etc., produced 3,000 lire, and several cases of clothing and soap. The results were divided between Dalmatian Relief and Viennese students.

Other groups of universities, on the other hand, notably in the English-speaking nations, have preferred to identify themselves with a nation-wide appeal. The Student Christian Movement of the U. S. A. has thrown in its lot with the American Relief Administration, under the ægis of Hoover.

Mr. Hoover has consented to the creation of a special depart-

ment for European student relief, and the effort of the Student Christian Movement will be co-ordinated with this department.

It is hoped that this plan will secure the co-operation of other student and educational organisations, thus making the effort a united one and increasing the size of the gift. The organisation of the Student Christian Movement is doing its part in urging every local Association to co-operate actively with the campaign.

The Student Movement of Great Britain and Ireland, in like manner, has refrained from issuing its own appeal, and has instructed each of its constituent unions to put all its strength into supporting the nation-wide appeal of the Imperial War Relief Fund. The Universities' Section of the I. W. R. F. is circulating literature in the British universities and colleges dealing with every kind of need in Central and Eastern Europe, the fight against typhus, the "Save the Children" effort, and so forth, but laying special emphasis on the needs of professors and students, and making a special appeal for them—from the results of which the I. W. R. F. is making grants to the Federation Student Relief Scheme.

In South Africa, an appeal was issued both in Dutch and in English, as early as last May, and widely circulated both in the colleges and in the schools of High School standard, where most of the branches of the South African Student Christian Association are found. By co-operating in their appeal with the "Save the Children" Fund, the S. A. S. C. A. has secured the benefit of the generous scheme whereby the Union Government gives a pound for pound grant to recognised relief agencies, and has already sent in nearly three thousand pounds, a good record, considering how young are most of our South African members.

All the Movements in America, Britain, and Britain Overseas have shown a tendency to earmark their gifts for schemes which promote self-help amongst students, and enable them to find or train for remunerative employment. This tendency on the part of countries where large numbers of students earn their way through college has been met even before it was expressed, by a class of organisation which has developed rapidly amongst Central European students, co-operative buying societies, welfare and self-help societies of all sorts. Perhaps the best known are

the *Allgemeine Studenten-Ausschüsse* (familiarly known as ASTA) which are found in most German-speaking universities. In Germany the richer members of these societies tax themselves for the benefit of the poorer. Those who have more than Mk. 400 a month income, give two per cent. of their income to ASTA—this equals thirteen shillings out of an annual income of thirty-two pounds. Such phenomena as this, coupled with the gift of Mk. 1,100 from the German Student Movement to our Relief funds, and the eagerness with which Austrian, Czech, Hungarian, and Polish students are demanding and availing themselves of opportunities of finding employment, show that the students of Central Europe are doing their share towards their own relief.

C. The Response has been bold and ingenious in its various manifestations.

As we glance through the records, which are coming in, of what some students are doing, we see such things as these:—undergraduates in Britain, Holland, and Norway going out and securing tens of thousands of dollars' worth of goods from merchants or farmers—cocoa, flour, milk, potatoes, fish, preserved meats, cereals, clothing, material, soap, oil, and so forth; student organisations approaching recalcitrant governments, petitioning them to remove customs or other regulations hindering the flow of goods to Central Europe; a graduate selling her wedding diamond tiara and giving the proceeds to us; women students going without new clothes; student clubs celebrating their own birthdays by gifts to us; posters, beautiful, witty, and striking, designed by art students; women's colleges turning to and making blouses and other garments for their comrades in other lands, as well as collecting quantities of second-hand clothing; a society of women medical graduates of one university helping to support a women-student hostel in Vienna; a small group of French women students raising Fr. 100 and sending it to Vienna to buy a mirror toward the furnishing of the *Damenzimmer* in the University; an International Student Club determining to raise five hundred pounds, erecting a house façade of five hundred tiny white bricks in their Entrance Hall, and blackening a brick each time one pound came in; students persuading every professor in a certain university to recommend our Relief Scheme to all

their classes; Japanese women students making a special collection at their summer conference and sending in 70 yen; women students in an American college going without luncheon or walking instead of riding to college, and giving what they save to Europe; students arranging for the sale of picture post cards from Austria, and postage stamps from Austria and Hungary, and thus sending considerable help to these lands. (*N. B. A picture post card bought for 25 heller in Vienna and sold for 25 centimes in Switzerland produces—owing to the difference in the exchange—Kronen 8.00, i. e., the price of a dinner and a supper for some student at the University Mensa in Vienna.*) Last, but certainly not least, much talent has been exercised in producing good publicity matter in a number of countries, either by translating or adapting the literature published by our Central Committee, or by original effort. Up to date, Britain, Holland, Italy, Norway, the United States of America, and South Africa have produced their own relief literature, and others are following suit.

D. *The Response has been a personal one in the best sense.* The relationship has never been that of impersonal charity, but always that of a sharing of resources between comrades, the expression of a sense of international good-fellowship, rejoicing in the opportunity to mend the breaches. So far as possible any proposals for relief have always been made in the name of fellow-students who wanted to help; special gifts, as in the case of Indian and Japanese women students and the *Foyer International* in Paris (French and other women students), have been accompanied by special and personal letters of greeting.

Many hundreds of Austrian, Hungarian, and German men and women students, most of them convalescents, have been entertained for months in their comrades' homes in neutral countries, during the vacations, sometimes through our Movement, often through other student organisations—a most fruitful way of cementing international friendship.

Both before and after the Beatenberg Committee, representative leaders from different countries went to carry their own universities' greetings to Austria, the Baltic States, Czecho-Slovakia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Roumania, and Servia, and some remained for longer or shorter periods, making friends, helping

with the administration of feeding and clothing schemes, lending a hand in the Wood Cutting Camp, attending conferences, and so forth. They came from Australia, Britain, Canada, Holland, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States of America. Every such visit means the forging of strong personal links, and ease and joy in the relief campaign in their own lands.

E. The Response has been one of the spirit, and not of the pocket alone.

For many students their response has meant a victory in the realm of mind and heart. Every country is needy just now, every country, every college, every citizen is appeal-worn and appeal-hardened; not every citizen or every student is free from prejudice, resentment, and hatred, and the needs at home are so pressing and pitiful; there are mountains of moral and spiritual difficulties to be surmounted, before appeals for the foreigner can be made or answered. We are *very* far from the end yet, but such success as we have so far attained has been paid for by costly acts of faith following on hours of prayer, and by self-sacrifice that has meant the giving up of prejudice and personal inclination quite as much as the giving up of money. This is why we are certain that the carrying out of our Relief Schemes will mean the proving, cleansing, and strengthening of our Federation.

Imperative Reasons for Helping Our Needy Fellow-Students in Europe

BY JOHN R. MOTT

BECAUSE of their desperate need. On my recent tour throughout such fields as Poland, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, France, Germany, and the foreign student centres of Switzerland, I found tens of thousands of students without the food and clothing necessary to maintain health and life. Large numbers die from starvation, or from diseases caused by insufficient food, or from lack of medicines. Many commit suicide as a result of their hard lot. I found no measures on foot adequate to prevent the present winter being as serious in such results as was last winter. Apart from the

need of food and clothing, there is need of fuel to heat the study rooms and funds to secure text-books and other university supplies. Above all, there is need of means to launch and conduct self-help activities.

Because of the importance of the present generation of European students. In view of the startling depletion of the student population of the European universities as a result of war losses, added burdens of responsibility must fall upon the first after-war generation of undergraduates. Grave problems press upon every land in Europe. It is of supreme importance that the life and efficiency of these future leaders be safeguarded.

Because such a friendly and unselfish ministry by the students and professors of many lands will help to lay secure foundations for the rebuilding of the shattered international structure. It is most fitting that the generating centres of leadership among the nations should take initiative in this most important reconstructive task.

Because such identification on our part with the sufferings of our comrades in these great areas of need will preserve and lend reality and contagious power to our religious faith. In vain will it be for us to profess faith in our creeds or to seek to propagate them unless such professions and such activity be accompanied and illustrated by evidences that our conduct squares with our beliefs. "If we love not our brother whom we have seen, how can we love God whom we have not seen?"

In view of considerations like these let each college and university which aspires to a position of the largest helpfulness and of true leadership (in the sense that "he who would be greatest among you shall be the servant of all") and every student and professor in each institution be fully responsive to the voice of the present need of our European fellow-students in this the most critical hour of their life.

Extracts from Letters on Student Relief

The White House,
Washington.

22 November, 1920.

My dear Doctor Mott:

This effort [of students in behalf of their fellow-students in the war-stricken lands of Europe and the Near East] commends itself to me not only because of its urgently needed humanitarian aspect, but also because of the influence it is certain to exert in promoting kindly and helpful relations between the leaders of to-morrow among the students of different lands and races.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

WOODROW WILSON.

My dear Dr. Mott:

The independent surveys of your Association and of ours as to the condition of students and faculties in the Central and Eastern European universities make it imperative that we should undertake at the earliest possible moment further endeavour to meet their needs. There are over one hundred thousand students, both men and women, also professors, who in the whole upset of economic equilibrium, are suffering greatly, and unless we can continue to bring to them adequate food, fuel, clothing, housing facilities, and every possible means for worthy students to continue their studies in as favourable an atmosphere as possible, we shall see a decadence in the intellectual fibre of Europe by the failure in attendance at many European universities. I find that your committees at present at work amongst students of European universities are doing wonderful work in encouraging self-help, in holding the staffs and students together, and in maintaining the morale of the universities. We have also a parallel problem in the care of the waif, destitute, and under-nourished children in the university towns as a part of our whole problem of child relief in Europe.

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT HOOVER.

Sir William Goode, British Director of Relief, writes:

Credits by Governments to Governments are necessarily im-

personal. In a crisis such as this there must be behind the impersonal a living, breathing spirit of individual humanitarianism which will bring home to the peoples now in despair the conviction that we do not regard them merely as pawns on a chess-board of inevitable sacrifice.

Needs of the Students of Poland

By W. J. Rose

THE students and professors of the land know better than foreigners how far from ideal the conditions obtaining here are. With seventy per cent. of the people of what was Russian-Poland illiterate, there is enough to do. Yet the only way to change this situation is to educate teachers. Seeing this, one and all have set to work, with the result, that, instead of the one-and-a-half universities which the Poles had in 1914, they now possess and profit by six. Of old, Cracow was the one centre of Polish higher learning alone. Half of the University of Lvoff was Ukrainian. Yet the tone of the work done in this latter centre was often higher than in the former. Now, Russian Poland has the University here in Warsaw, with some five thousand students, as well as the Polytechnic, with nearly four thousand. In addition, there is the new Catholic University founded by M. Jaroszynski, (a sort of Polish Rockefeller) at Lubin, on the lines of Louvain, or Fribourg in Switzerland. This latter is only just being organised, yet teaching is already under way. In addition, there was founded last spring, for the work of the summer term, the Polish University of Poznan. Finally, there was re-opened last autumn, in the historic, and, for the Poles, sacred city of Vilna, the sixth university—where it is the hope of one and all to recover some of the lofty idealism and power of those great days of just a century ago.

The material situation in which many of the twenty thousand students of Poland find themselves is deplorable. I have recently visited three of the universities, in company with Dr. J. R. Mott. We held extended conferences with groups of students to find out exactly what the situation is. Then I am in touch with Miss M. Taylor, of Bristol University, who is surveying the whole field for the Friends' Relief Mission here. Apart from that, I have been

in intimate contact with the students in Warsaw during the winter. Only the resolve to steel myself, and not let the obvious misery of those about me become too much of a burden, has kept me able to do my day's work. A few facts will show what I mean.

My conference with the Vilna students revealed the fact that not over five per cent. have sufficient funds for the purposes of study. The rest must earn, while trying to keep up their university work. They are engaged in teaching, whether privately or in institutions, in office work, both private and state, and in the military administration. All this means that the best hours of the day are gone. With them goes the energy of the student.

As it is, some ten per cent. of the students live in cubby holes, in not a few of which there is neither heat nor light in winter, and the sanitary conditions are indescribable. Some had rain and wind beating upon them. The problem of residences is most acute in every centre, especially in a land where so many country districts are laid waste, and the over-crowding in the cities is unspeakable. In Warsaw, some 230 men are crowded into the Students' House with sixty-three rooms, without either pillows to go round, or sheets for the beds, or towels, or even beds enough. The Young Men's Christian Association has relieved the worst need here for this year with its magnificent hostel in the barracks, for the students on furlough for study.

Next to the problem of a place to live, comes that of something to wear. The matter of food, even, is easier to solve than that of clothing. Much has been done by organised effort here, by help from Poles in America, by the American Red Cross, and by grants from the Government, to tide over this year in some fashion; but hundreds of men and women who ought to be continuing their studies next year, are seeing their clothes becoming rags on their backs, conscious that they haven't a cent to procure more with,—nor can they earn it. Just here something large should be done to consign materials of any good sort to the Student Movement Committee, for sale or distribution, in co-operation with the Polish Student Committee. The cost would not be excessive, the help given would be enormous.

As to food, Miss Taylor found that the Warsaw women students were the worst off in this regard. I know that in Vilna the regular thing is for the student to have black bread and tea

for breakfast, his dinner at the *Mensa*, where he may pay half of the set price of threepence, or may pay only one-fifth of it, and then faces the chance of going supperless to bed. Some fifteen of the neediest in Vilna get supper from the left-over of dinner. Things are little better in Cracow or Warsaw, where the number of students is ten times larger, and the conditions obtaining in larger cities are so much harder. In a word, the strength of the student is sapped because, even if he gets a dinner that seems to satisfy him, it is lacking in many of the essentials, and his body cannot long stand the strain. Having been through the war myself as a prisoner in Silesia, I know whereof I speak. All these difficulties will be enormously increased when the men are demobilised, return to normal life, lose their army pay, and must be housed during the coming year.

Yet there is one other matter of the bitterest insistence—the fact that those most essential things for study, *viz.*, books, are almost not to be had. As is well known, the Poles were not allowed to have their own scientific literature before the war. I mean this, that they were forced to use German and Russian to such a degree that the sale of Polish text-books could not hope to repay the cost of production. The result is that, as you know, there is virtually no medical literature existing in Polish. That in the face of the tremendous need Poland has, at the moment, of doctors! The same is true of other fields of science, pure and applied. Nor is there any hope of publishing in the near future anything worth mentioning, apart from the enormous quantities of elementary things needed for the grade schools in town and country. Neither the paper nor the presses are available. If they were, the lack of strong minds to prepare these things is clear, since all the leaders of thought have had to lay aside the life of creation they could follow before, and devote all their energies to administration. This is one of the tragedies of the whole matter. Fancy professors of middle-age forced to turn out and shoulder a musket, as part of the civic guard, or to carry out inspections of military stores, or to execute house searchings after hidden weapons, or food-stuffs. Yet this has happened more than once. Not the least sorrowful case that has come under my notice is that of a distinguished professor of art and architecture, who went into the trenches in Lithuania in the winter after the Armistice, to help keep out the Bolsheviks, took off his over-

coat one bitterly cold night to cover a lad who was near him without one, caught a cold, which developed into pneumonia—and they buried him a few days later.

But to return to books. Not only is the printing of books here, at present, beset with the greatest difficulties, but the buying of the same outside is impossible. It is quite out of the question for the people here to have the best British journals of a literary and scientific character, as long as one has to pay from six hundred to eight hundred marks for an English pound. One of the first booksellers in Warsaw bought in a fine stock of the best English books a year ago, when a pound was worth seventy to ninety marks. He sold a part (on commission, of course), but with the collapse of the exchange rate, things have stopped, and he cannot sell anything.

And now a word about the situation in which the professors find themselves. Fancy lecturers doing the work of specialists on the salary of thirty shillings a month—the price, whether in London or Warsaw, of a pair of boots. Since three months ago, when I left Poland for America, things have doubled in price, even trebled. The result is that only professors who have private means can live at all. Some of them are able to help things along by doing literary work. In many cases the wife and mother is a woman of high education, and she now goes out to work also. All this tends to break up the home, to sap the strength, to derange the social order. •

One of the most brilliant of the younger professors of Warsaw, whom I myself heard through the whole winter term, was forced to resign, simply because he could not live on his salary. The case is also known where a wife sold her one fur coat for a huge sum of Polish marks, in order to double her husband's income for the year. Parting with surplus clothing is one of the commonest ways to tide over the present time.

My experience as student and lecturer in five universities, in four lands, has taught me to know heroic souls when I meet them. Without exaggeration, I can say that the teaching staffs of the new Slav universities in Europe belong, almost without exception, to them. I have rejoiced to see the way Poles the world over have left their well-paid posts, in order to return and help get their beloved country on her feet. This applies to simple farmers

and factory workers from America, who joined the army in France, just as much as to the men and women teaching in universities in European countries and America—all of whom have refused to count the cost, but have willingly given of their best. The Rector of one university told me his heart on this point. What worried him most was that he could not have books for his pupils. He said, "There are in this city two copies of Lampert's "Faunæ," which cost twenty marks before. Now one of them costs 450, the other 800 marks. We bought a complete printing press in Germany a few months ago, paying part down. Delivery has not yet come, and now the price has been raised a thousand per cent."

Cablegram Relative to the Student Relief of the Intercollegiate Menorah Association

Editor's Note: This cablegram was addressed to Professor Felix Frankfurter, of the Harvard Law School, one of the Honorary Chairmen of the Menorah Student Relief. Miss Goldman is associated in Paris with her father, Dr. Julius Goldman, European Director of American Jewish Relief.

Delighted decision Menorah. Situation Jewish students growing daily more desperate. Lemberg University admits only such having performed service Polish Army. Budapest fifteen hundred Jewish Students walking streets vainly hoping enter university which accepted not single Jew. Consequence conditions Poland and persecutions Hungary Jewish students congregating in Prague where looked upon with disfavour and frequently threatened with expulsion which may become reality any moment. Students cut off from communication with homes for most part entirely without funds. Desperate housing condition these cities making impossible students finding lodging. In Prague found them sleeping in old Jewish cemetery, along quays, and under bridges. Approaching winter will create appalling situation. Shelterless, hungry, ill-clad, and only too often sick, these students will surely not be able to go through another winter of suffering unless help comes to them promptly from outside world.

HETTY GOLDMAN.

Student Life in Vienna

BY SHERWOOD EDDY

WE spent some time in Vienna in examining conditions of student life. Almost none of the students have had a daily breakfast since 1917. Many have had only a crust of dry bread, and others take their first meal at noon. Many had not tasted butter or chocolate for four years.

A student association has been formed to furnish relief for these students, and 2,200 are being fed one meal a day. They are charged one-third of a cent for the breakfast in order that they may retain their self-respect. The meal consists of one-tenth of a loaf of white bread and a cup of cocoa. Some fifteen hundred women students have been furnished clothing. Clad in little more than rags, becoming filthy and verminous, without even money to buy soap or a bath, many of them are in a pitiable condition. They cannot afford to buy needles or thread to mend their old clothes.

Many of the men students were left with tuberculosis and malaria after the war. The professors are in worse condition than the students. The Registrar of the University, who ranks next to the Rector, gets \$285 a year. He frequently has to go without his midday meal to save enough to buy a few clothes for his children.

The college fees have increased seven-fold, and the cost of text-books ten-fold. A single piece of drawing paper now costs twenty kronen, or fifteen cents. A student's normal budget has increased from 1,300 kronen to 21,000 kronen, or sixteen-fold, but this amount they do not possess. If a student tutors for three hours he earns but ten cents daily, or twenty-six dollars a year.

Let us take one or two concrete cases of actual students in the University. (1) E. L. is a doctor of law. He served in the war for four years and contracted tuberculosis during the service, and he is now an invalid. As a lawyer's assistant he earns \$5.70 a month, and he has to support his aged father, the two living together in one small room. He has no prospect of earning his way in the law or of having a home. (2) H. H., a medical student, aged twenty-six, has to provide for his mother and three sisters. Formerly they were well-to-do. They are now

selling one piece of furniture after another. All four, by doing tutoring, can earn only \$4.30 a month. After four years in the army the young man was wounded in both legs, and he is partially disabled. (3) W. T. is a student of philosophy, living with his mother. They are selling their furniture and borrowing money to keep alive. Together they have but \$5.70 a month. Even if he can enter the overcrowded profession of teaching, he will start with an impossible burden of debt. (4) F. W. is a student of philosophy. His family lost all in the revolution. He is now working as a tram-conductor. With his two sisters and father, he is living in one room, trying to eke out an existence. (5) A music student who is trying to earn a bare livelihood is spending sixty cents a month for food and sixty-five cents a month on her music. Many students in the Technical College are working as labourers, mechanics, and wood-cutters to appease their hunger, but after four years of underfeeding the students have not enough strength for effective manual work. If they tutored, it would require daily ten hours to earn a living, and competition is such that no one could obtain so much. Some are selling newspapers on the streets, getting one-fifteenth of a cent profit on each paper and sometimes small tips. But it is demoralising to stand for hours in the noisy streets and live upon tips. Imagine the despair of a student returning after four years of fighting to fall into such hopeless misery. After he has been supported by his family for twenty years, neither the student nor his family is now able to earn a livelihood. Even if the students succeeded in struggling through their college courses under such circumstances, there is no profession or calling which offers much hope of success or support under present conditions in Austria. Some of the women students have been driven to sell what was dearer than life itself in order to get their next meal.

The increase of crime is one of the terrible results of hunger. A student in the Technical College, seeing persons who had just come from the bank with money, fell upon them and tried to kill them with a club. Thirty-five persons were imprisoned for murder in Vienna in the first three months of this year, mostly because of hunger. Criminal cases have multiplied twenty-fold. The state, which has lasted for a thousand years, has broken

down. The Hapsburg monarchy, which furnished the keystone for the arch, has fallen, leaving only a wreck behind. The old empire is now broken into seven component parts. The Austrian Republic lies prostrate. In the meantime, people are dying of hunger. Such is the plight of Austria.

All those people are human and they are helpless. On the ship I met an American who had just received an appeal for the starving in the Central Empires. He said, "I am not a Christian and do not profess to be, but I seemed to hear a voice saying, 'If thine enemy hunger, feed him,' and I drew out a check at once." This man did not profess to be a Christian, but he was human. All of us are human, and some of us profess to be Christian.

Student Relief Measures in Czechoslovakia

By FJERIL HESS

Editor's Note: The following passages are extracts from a letter dated September 29, 1920.

1. Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Association investigations found in the beginning crowded, unfit housing conditions—if a student had a tiny corner to himself he was lucky. The greatest numbers live in groups in places sometimes provided for them by the Government—an old prison, a few rooms in an old Catholic convent hospital, etc. No heat, no light for study, no baths. Many were starving practically, through lack of funds and the fact that the poverty certificate which entitles them to a card at the student *Mensa* does not provide sufficient food. About fifty per cent. were suffering from either tuberculosis or incipient tuberculosis due largely to lack of food and insufficient clothing. In addition to poor Czechoslovak students, there were and still are two or three thousand foreign students, Poles (a few), Ukrainians, and Jugo-Slavs, who need the same things in housing, food, and medical care. The clothing question, except among the Ukrainian refugees, has not been so acute as in Austria.

2. The Student Department of the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations has been the distributor for Student Relief from the American Relief Administration, which has been very generous in the food drafts. We have had so

far about \$6,000 worth of drafts for distribution. Besides these, we have spent some of our general funds for food for students sick in hospitals. We have been unable to provide any additional housing for students, nor have we had any clothing to give. Some articles have been supplied by request from the Czecho-Slovak Red Cross—very few. We are planning for a clinic in the Student Foyer and, if possible, a diet kitchen for those who need medical feeding—if we can get the necessary funds for the latter. Health conditions are very poor.

3. For individuals who have applied for free help—money loans especially—we have tried to find some sort of part-time employment. Several students have been placed—a Department of the new Student Movement is being headed up to encourage and provide just this thing for students. Students are asking what boys and girls in other countries do to help themselves. We hope we can really do something along this line.

Housing and Food Conditions among Students in Budapest

It will give some faint idea of the general misery and want in Hungary if we mention the great depreciation of the Hungarian money. In pre-war times one crown was equal to one Swiss franc and five crowns were the equivalent of one dollar. To-day it takes nearly seventy-one crowns to purchase one franc and 455 crowns to buy one dollar. You will meet men in public service whose employer, the State, increased their pre-war salaries by all kinds of bonuses up to 375 per cent. beyond its former standard, and who now struggle with the cost of necessities which have risen three thousand per cent.

In Budapest you will meet several hundred thousands of unemployed workers. You will meet trade companies which are conducting a good business by turning up the mountains where the refuse of the city has been heaped up for several decades and collecting the pieces of not entirely burned coal which can be found there. This can be sold as a rare fuel for the population, shivering through the cold winter. You will find wood-ware factories which, in the midst of the general industrial

stagnation, are busy at work manufacturing small coffins instead of other articles for which there is less demand.

Of the students under our survey 30.5 per cent. enjoy the privilege of living with their families or at least with relatives. Because of the tremendous shortage in housing in Budapest, however, the homes are overcrowded. For two years there has been a constant flow of emigrants and refugees coming from those two-thirds of Hungary's former territory which at present are under the rule of other States. These many thousands who have lost their positions or whose life has become unbearable under the change of political circumstances, turn mostly toward Budapest in the hope of finding some livelihood there.

They arrive at the stations of the capital in long freight trains, each van containing a family with its furniture and whatever else they were able to save of their belongings from their lost home. On their arrival the locomotives are detached from these trains, but the wagons are left there to serve as the dwelling-place of these families until the city can offer them some more hospitable accommodation. Since the city is already overcrowded, however, because of the shifting of the population during the war and the prohibitive cost of the erection of buildings, it is only extremely slowly that these newcomers are absorbed by the city. For many months these railway vans become the permanent lodgings of the refugees. Through the constant arrival of new trains whole railway streets and colonies have sprung up in the precincts of the city. According to the statement of the government office, which is in charge of the refugees, there are at present between twelve thousand and thirteen thousand people living around Budapest under such conditions. Thousands of them have spent the winter in these unfriendly homes.

Most of these families belong to the different classes of state officials and employes, the very element which yields the greatest percentage of students.

On their questionnaires 108 students stated they were "bed-renters." This, too, is far below the real number. To live as a "bed-renter," that is to say, not to be able to pay for more than the mere use of a bed in a crowded home, was characteristic in pre-war times of the drunkard of the slums. It is no wonder,

therefore, that only 108 students dared to confess being "bed-renters," though it is perfectly certain that through the present shortage of rooms in Budapest, a much larger proportion of students is forced to such a mode of life. For instance, we have visited an emergency hostel established for students and accommodating eighty men. Only twenty-two of these were in possession of bed linen. The rest had none whatever. They were accustomed to sleep between the bare straw mats and blankets.

Those who can afford to rent not only beds, but rooms, either for themselves or in company with others, amount to 41.5 per cent. of the total. These again can be analysed as follows:

36 per cent. are living alone in a room.

28.4 per cent. are living in rooms shared by two.

11.2 per cent. are living in rooms shared by three.

5.9 per cent. are living in rooms shared by four.

1.1 per cent. are living in rooms shared by five.

1.7 per cent. are living in rooms shared by six or more.

Eleven per cent. of all students under our survey are living in student hostels maintained by different agencies.

Our questionnaires contained this inquiry: "What is the effect of your economic situation, of your housing conditions, etc., upon your university work? Frequently the answer was, "I am constantly hungry." This question, "Have you any inherited or acquired disease?" was answered by more than one student in this way: "Yes, I suffer from an incurable appetite." Twenty-one and seven-tenths per cent. of all students are limited to two meals a day. This does not mean that they may not eat bread, for instance, in addition to these meals—if they can get it—but neither do we mean to say that these two meals are satisfactory as to quantity and food value. Most of these students take their meals at public emergency restaurants. It is comparatively cheap but correspondingly poor food. But 2.35 per cent. of the students are sure of only one daily meal. Eighty-two such cases came under our personal survey. We may safely say that more than four times this is the real total for all students in the city. It was stated by 143 students under our survey that they lived on irregular meals, having neither dinners nor suppers regularly served.

The Self-Help of the German Academic World

By *Ministerialrath FRANZ IRMER*
(*Translated*)

WHEN the war broke out, Germany, like all the belligerent states and indeed like the entire world, experienced a thorough-going change of all relationships. The life of thousands of organisations and clubs in the German nation also experienced a fundamental change. This type of activities became in a large measure discontinued, or limited solely to relief for members in the field. Occasionally, the activities, however, became entirely changed and reached astonishing proportions. An example of this sort is found in the history of the "German Student Service of 1914," which owes its existence to the energy of the German Student Christian Alliance. Though this organisation, the German Student Christian Alliance, had its circles in all German scientific High Schools even before the war, yet it led almost everywhere a somewhat obscure existence. In any case, it limited itself almost exclusively to the aim of winning students for Christ and strengthening its members in the discipleship of Christ. With the outbreak of the war all was changed. The German Student Christian Alliance undertook provision for the intellectual and spiritual well-being, originally, of students in the field but later broadened this undertaking to include all classes and finally also added the provision of food, clothing, and the like. All this work was grouped together by the German Student Christian Alliance under the German Student Service. The service rendered by the German Movement at home and abroad during the war cannot be set forth here. Really characteristic of this work was the fact that it became constantly extended in harmony with the increasing need in Germany and did not collapse under this burden but on the contrary survived the end of the war and the period immediately following and has still a great field of work before it. Many of its branches of work it has, to be sure, given up, but it still employs some forty or fifty workers of every sort, who now are again active on the old lines for the service of students. Wherever the frightful need of German students calls for help, this service attacks the problem. A cardinal principle of its work is not to give alms but to invest and utilise all economic means belonging to it in such a way that the fruits of

them will be of a permanent character rather than of temporary effect. Since the Student Service clearly recognises that despite all the difficulty of the burden now resting upon its Fatherland, the peak of suffering of German students has not yet been reached, therefore it seeks to be well prepared and equipped to help to the end that the intellectual life of Germany may not be fully quenched. Thus the Student Service must now adopt as its aim, even more than in the war, the removal of economic need, for in the particular circles from which the great majority of students come, this need is shockingly great. The element which in Germany, as elsewhere, is making itself felt, represented by spongers and profiteers spending money extravagantly in the most disgusting manner and living lives of dissipation, does not typify the student classes of Germany, struggling and striving indefatigably after knowledge.

This economic need shows itself particularly in the matter of food, shelter, clothing, and the provision of the other necessities of life. All these wants have been ministered to within the scope of the work of the Student Service in Berlin. It has secured here a great hostel in the north of the city (Borsigstrasse 5 and Tieckstrasse 17), the old student quarter of Berlin, besides another large house in the northwestern part of the city (Flensburgerstrasse 9), in which students recently have shown more tendency to congregate. In both houses there are altogether more than one hundred bedrooms, besides dining rooms furnishing noon and evening meals, social and club rooms, and in one a library with about three thousand volumes. Great care is devoted to the supplying of the food for the occupants of the Homes and of the several hundred table guests who visit the Homes of the Student Service for the two principal meals. In every respect there is in Germany great scarcity of necessities of life, so that, for example, milk in Berlin is not obtainable in anything like adequate measure to supply nursing mothers, small children, and old people. The small food supplies are therefore exceedingly hard to obtain, since every one seeks to out-bid all others in order to secure them. In this economic stress it was of very great significance that the World's Federation extended to the German Student Christian Movement means for purchasing in the neighbourhood of Berlin a small agricultural property. The German Student Christian Alliance turned over this farm, which

bears the name of *Marienhöhe*, for cultivation, to the Student Service, which has been able through the lease of adjoining territory to increase its area somewhat, so that the whole property now has an extent of 125 hectares (about 300 acres). It is thus possible for the Student Service to supply directly from its own agricultural enterprise the kitchens of its eating houses. A constant stream of auto trucks travels back and forth. Potatoes, vegetables, butter, and other products are taken into the city and the waste materials from the kitchens are taken back to the farm to be fed to the swine. Furthermore, the Student Service has engaged a bakery in the neighbourhood of the farm to bake at a moderate price the bread needed for its Homes. Also, through the addition of potatoes grown on the farm, it has proved possible to make larger as well as better and more nourishing loaves than otherwise obtainable, because of the compulsory restrictions in force. The grain supplying the flour used in the bakery is also grown on our property. At the present time, a vegetable garden and a garden with tracts for berry raising is being laid out so that in this way the eating houses may be supplied with vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, and so forth. The attempt is to make every item of development relate to others, like the links in a chain, in order to supply in the eating houses the cheapest possible but also the most nourishing, the best, and the most appetising possible food, and to provide the permanent inmates with reference to their future needs for food supplies of bread and other staples of diet.

In addition to this direct provision, the Student Service has meanwhile influenced all the Berlin High Schools to form an association, the object of which is to furnish to instructors and students a supply of all the articles of daily life and of the needs of study in a manner which eliminates the additional expense occasioned by the profits of the "middleman." For some weeks this new association has been at work but it is still in too early a stage of development to make it possible to pass judgment upon its efficiency. This work can succeed only if the necessarily large sums of money required for its expenses can be obtained. The first indications, however, are so encouraging that the Student Service has invited all the other High Schools of Germany to follow the example of the Berlin High Schools and to form sim-

ilar organisations in all German High School cities. Likewise, it has proposed that the already formed or about to be formed associations of this sort unite in a great league embracing all of Germany. This league would be in a position to control wholesale purchases and dictate terms of credit. It is still too early to say with complete certainty that this aim can be attained.

A further method found by the German Student Service of combating the needy conditions of the German students is represented by the big book concern bearing the name of Johannes Grote and Company, which was founded by it and has already been in most successful operation for a number of months. Its headquarters are at Berlin N. W. 7, Universitätsstr. 2. In a manner similar to that of the other institutions established by the German Student Service, it seeks to supply scientific books and every other book to students most promptly and at the cheapest possible prices.

These are the principal economic enterprises of the Student Service, in addition to which there are several purely social undertakings, like an information service with regard to student rooms, and a service of information regarding vacation and rest through the hospitality of foreign students in other lands.

In all its institutions, the Student Service strives not only to work for students but also to add student fellow-workers to its staff of scientifically trained leaders. Thus, in its business bureau we find students serving permanently or temporarily as assistants; in the book shop some such workers are also employed. In its great Foyer students have long been working even as house servants. For the agricultural undertaking it has formed a student section for harvesting the potato crop. Wherever it is possible, the Student Service seeks to supply individual students with means of earning money. The hindrances which have to be overcome in connection with such supplementary earnings in Germany are for many reasons very considerable. Yet the Student Service is unwilling to neglect its opportunity to extend aid, through this means also, to the hard-pressed German students.

So to-day, as well as formerly, the Student Service has its great field of work. Rich in experience, it stands there always ready, now and in the future, to help, wherever the opportunity is offered, work is presented, or funds may be secured.

Pioneering

EXTRACT FROM G. H. Q. BULLETIN, PRAHA, CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

AT a recent conference of six ministers of Governmental Departments, with the representatives of the Czech and German student organisations, Miss Alice Masaryk of the Czecho-Slovak Red Cross, and the heads of the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. Student Departments, the problem of securing quarters for students was solved. The Government agreed to give the ground and 4,000,000 crowns with which to build seven dormitories to house five hundred men. A very interesting feature of the buildings will be that they will have been constructed by the students themselves, and only those who have aided in the building will live in them. It will probably shock the Czech population to see these young men soiling their hands, for the Czech people are not yet accustomed to using brain workers for manual labour. As a result students find it very difficult to secure work in Prague. Our Student Department has given them every material aid in the way of employment, but the problem is a large one.

The buildings will be ready for use in a month. Professor Sahoursky of the Technical School will superintend the work.

Economic Needs of the Students in Germany

By DR. WALTHER KOCH

(Translated)

THE sad conditions under which German students have been living since the war are not well known to the public; especially in other countries. Most people think of the student as the son of well-to-do parents, who can afford to devote a number of years to study, untroubled by cares for his livelihood. In many countries this may be the case. It is not so in Germany, where the social circles from which the majority of the students come are entirely different from those which have produced the majority of English students. Most of the German students come from the middle classes. For example, many future teachers in higher schools, political economists, theologians, and

many jurists, come from the middle stratum of officials. The fathers have been dependent on a fixed salary, which was not very high even before the war; and of this they were accustomed to lay a part aside in order that their sons might be able to study. In the most extreme case, one-fifth or one-sixth of the father's salary could be put aside for the son's studies. Impartial inquiries, conducted in January, 1920, have led to the conclusion that in Berlin a student living quite simply needed at least 499 marks a month, if he wanted to eat even moderately satisfying meals. During the past year even that sum has risen considerably, in accordance with the great increase of all prices. In order to be able to afford his son an education from one-fifth of his income to-day, a father would have to receive more than sixty thousand marks a year. But a year ago the average salary of an official of the middle grade varied between eight thousand and ten thousand marks, and it is evident from this fact that it is no longer possible for such an official, under the present circumstances, to let his son study, unless specially favourable circumstances permit. Before the war, a student without large means could do fairly well with eighty to one hundred marks a month, in case of necessity, since he could get a room for twenty-five to thirty marks, and a good midday meal for 1.00 to 1.50 marks. To-day a room alone, in Berlin, costs usually a hundred marks, if not more—that is, as much as the total sum which many students formerly had at their disposal. If the student is compelled to eat in a boarding house (practically always the case in Berlin), then he can only partly satisfy his hunger under six marks at midday, and he cannot get his supper for much less.

While the most necessary expenses of the students have thus increased about five-fold, the salaries of their fathers, if they are officials, have been far from increasing in the same proportions.

From these facts, the reader can clearly see the need of very many students who could quite well manage to carry on their studies in Germany before the war. It may be added that the scholarships granted to students with talents, but without means, were far from being so numerous as they were in England; through the universal economic collapse the existing scholarships lose very greatly in value.

There is therefore great need among the students in Germany. Very many students have to-day scarcely two hundred marks a month at their disposal, on the average, in place of their former 150 marks. This increase of the monthly allowance by about thirty-three per cent. is in contrast with an increase of six hundred to a thousand per cent. in the cost of most of the necessities of life. Even the immediate expenses of the students for educational supplies and academic fees have risen to a remarkable extent. A drawing board, which formerly cost fourteen marks, came to eighty-two marks at the beginning of March, 1920. The cost of lectures has gone up sixty per cent., and in another high school 150 per cent. An exact statistical inquiry, on the result of which a report was given in the January, 1920, number of the *Lower Saxony High School Journal*, produced the following figures for Göttingen for the autumn of 1919. (The conditions there were far more favourable then than now). An income of only 150 marks a week, or less, was at the disposal of:

- 15.28 per cent. in the theological faculty.
- 8.45 per cent. in the philosophical faculty.
- .73 per cent. in the medical faculty.
- .65 per cent. in the legal faculty.

The poorest students are thus to be found among the students of theology (often the sons of teachers and parsons) and among the philosophical students—the future teachers in higher schools.

The Rector of the University of Münster on March 10, 1920, noted the following increases in prices affecting students. While a lodging cost twenty to thirty marks, on the average, in Münster before the war, the price is now seventy-five to a hundred marks. The price of supplies (books and writing materials), has gone up four hundred per cent. on the average. For midday and evening meals, 5 to 7.50 marks must normally be allowed. Since the student cannot usually pay that, he must often forgo a warm meal and a heated room.

The General Committee of Students of the University of Frankfurt-am-Main reports on February 21st that a minimum living allowance of 350 marks must be reckoned for the student; but, on this allowance, it is possible to live in Frankfurt only by the greatest economies. The proportion of needy students at

the University of Frankfurt is estimated at fifty-six per cent.

For the University of Bonn, it is established by investigations of the Students' Welfare Union that, during the summer semester of 1919, the monthly income of the student was on the average of 180-230 marks, and since then it has sunk still lower. Even this monthly income, quite insufficient in view of the high prices, is often made up only by all sorts of spare-time earnings. It is declared in the official report of the Director of the University of Bonn, that students give private lessons at eighty pfennigs an hour, and that they even have to go seven kilometres (from Bonn to Godesberg) on foot to give them; the fares are much more than their remuneration for the lesson. To get the necessary means for the completion of their studies, students of the University of Münster have worked through half a year as miners. Many students incur the danger of seeking the work which is absolutely necessary, in order to earn a living, in by-ways which are not entirely respectable and honourable. There are cases where industrious students have been compelled by need to lead a double life, as porters in dubious public-houses.

A professor at Aix-la-Chapelle informs us that various students have entered monasteries at Aix-la-Chapelle, in order, at least, to maintain life and continue their studies by the sacrifice of their personal liberty.

But all the students who go in the ordinary way must, if they are not provided with means—deny themselves food in order to study. The result is shockingly prevalent under-nourishment among the students, with all its concomitant symptoms of ill-health, as observed by the acting president of the academic sick benefit scheme in Bonn, Dr. Krause (a man who stands high in his profession) in an investigation into the cases of those students who had made claims for sick benefit.

The public kitchens, which will have to be closed in many places because they cannot continue to supply food at possible prices, have been for many students, notwithstanding, the only way in which they could ensure a modicum of nourishment. But under what unpleasant conditions! The dirt and the over-crowding of the dining-halls do not permit of any pleasure in eating. In Tübingen, during the summer of 1919, about 160 students ate in the public kitchens, where for one mark they

obtained a sloppy concoction, having little food-value, which they were compelled to eat out of tin plates, in a scantily furnished room. Many took a part of their portion home with them, to eat it cold or warmed-up in the evening. The well-known Berlin colleague of Siegmund-Schultze, Pastor Carl Mennicke, reports cases personally known to him, where students have lunch only twice, or even once a week, and actually content themselves for the rest of the week with dry bread and a little barley soup, or the like. Carl Mennicke can tell of a startling case, in which a student, whose ability gave reason for the fairest hopes, and who was a particularly earnest student, reached such a state, through weeks of hunger, that he could no longer endure an existence which shook his very soul, and sought his death. The people with whom this young man lodged had been giving him something even out of the little which they had themselves, because, as they said, they could not bear to see his hunger. No wonder that Mennicke, who is in close touch with the students, through the Academic Social Union in Berlin, and through his activity in the East Berlin Fellowship of Social Workers, must add his testimony that, at the present time, the majority of the students are unable to devote themselves to science, because of hunger.

Now the effort is being made, according to the available means, to facilitate and improve the feeding of the students by providing noon meals. Thus, in Bonn, in the autumn of 1919, when the war-time public kitchens came to an end, a *Mensa Academica* for students was opened. The press of students for this opportunity of getting somewhat cheaper and more nourishing meals was so great that, in spite of the huge hall, the students who had to wait for places to become empty bestowed themselves in the entry and in the corridors, and many were compelled to eat standing.

Yet the student kitchens could give their guests, on most days, nothing but a simple soup, with a portion of vegetables—such as peas or beans, with potatoes. At the University of Frankfurt-am-Main, in the Student Welfare Society refreshment room, a fairly cheap, but not more nourishing meal, at the price of 3.30 marks, was to be had at the end of February. Such combined movements for helping the students have been undertaken

in great numbers from the German side, but all such enterprises for feeding students have been suffering gravely of late from the rapid increase in prices, and they are not all still able to give a sufficient lunch to students, at moderate prices. Things which will keep, like peas, can no longer be procured to the necessary extent, because of their exorbitant prices. The management of the student kitchens at Bonn received a notice from the Municipality recently stating that no more meat could be given out. Bacon and fat are hardly to be had for the student kitchens any more, because of their continual rise in price.

These various efforts to alleviate the distress among students all suffer so much as the result of the rise in prices that we must contemplate closing down much relief work, unless the humanely thinking and acting people in better situated foreign countries come to the help of these organisations with gifts of food—particularly fat and meat—as they have done to such a wide extent for the under-nourished German children. An effort to solve the problem of student need, which was made a short time ago, may be particularly recommended. It is the attempt of the students to supply themselves with the necessities of life, through a co-operative production society, with four hours' daily work, in factories and other productive businesses, and at the same time to supply free lodging and board in the neighbourhood of the factory with a small remuneration in cash. Such an attempt to strike at the root of the evil is to be made at Lankwitz, near Berlin. If it is possible to give the students a chance to carry on their studies, through economically productive work, and to offer them assistance with regard to food from abroad at the same time, so that they can happily carry on bodily and mental work together, then it may be hoped that the needs of the academic proletariat, as it calls itself now, (like the students in Russia of old) may be really lightened. But, if no help is given to the students in their need, it is to be feared that there will develop more and more embittered feelings of hatred and revenge, which have already made themselves manifest in the inclination of a large part of the students towards the extreme tendencies of militaristic nationalism and Bolshevism. Only active help on a considerable scale can check this development in Germany.

The Society of Friends and Student Relief

By CAROLENA M. WOOD

A GENERATION of the educated young men of Europe has been lost. The great proportion of the most brilliant younger graduates of Oxford, of Berlin, of the Sorbonne, and of Vienna lie quietly together in that narrow strip—be it two miles wide or thirty—that runs from the English Channel to the frontier of Switzerland. Their service here has been short as we count time and they have left Europe to face the most appalling problems of reconstruction without them. New problems in the development of a democracy out of an Empire—in economic reconstruction from the wreck of a world war, in forming a free Church of the people out of an established Church—such problems are not easy for the older men who are left. Europe is not only bankrupt financially; she is in pitiful want of her trained sons, strong to bear her burdens.

The universities are still there, however, and into them are crowding the young men and women of to-day who have come to maturity through years of the deepest experiences of life and death. They have felt sorrow in their own families and in the life of their nation as have few generations of thinking men and women before them and they seek insistently for answers to the questions which rise. As the Rector of the University of Breslau said to me, "They must have a chance to *think*." Thus it is that there are eighty-three thousand students in the universities of Germany as against sixty-one thousand in 1914. Who can doubt that from these great leaders shall be produced to meet such needs? But where shall they lead us to? In every life is the question, uttered or unexpressed—"Is there any other way than the way of periodic wars?" The large increase of students in the faculties of economics and of law reflects this preoccupation.

With such burning ambitions it is indeed pitiful to see the odds with which they must struggle. Mr. Hoover reminds us that the war collapsed in the face of the greatest famine in three hundred years and this is written on all their faces. Students come largely from families of small shop-keepers, minor officials, clergymen, and teachers. These feel especially the grip of want. Often fathers and elder brothers who could have

helped have been lost in the war and the increase in the costs—fees, books, food, clothes, lodging—has been from three hundred to seven hundred per cent. In Nuremberg, in spite of exceedingly strict control, one-tenth of the population must be supplied with extra rations on account of illness or weakness. In the University of Munich, out of eleven thousand students four thousand are in need.

Many are dressed in the uniforms which have survived the war—tightly buttoned up to hide the meager outfit beneath—and the pallor in their faces matches the “field grey” and tells the tale that all the reserves have been expended. The fees and price of lodging and books are fixed. The only place to “save” is on food and so in the struggle with hunger and cold many fall by the wayside and have not strength to pass the goal of examinations.

Such conditions were soon evident to the members of the Society of Friends who were working in Germany and they attempted to lend a hand by establishing in Berlin two student eating centres where one thousand out of the fourteen thousand students could receive on payment of 1.50 Mks. a meal which cost six marks. At the Charlottenburg Technical High School two hundred out of three thousand students were fed and a little help was given in Leipzig and Munich. The greatest care was exercised in choosing those who should have the privilege of these restaurants to see that no religious or political bias affected the choice but it was hard indeed to say “no” when the number was full. To many this daily meal of eight hundred calories was the one chance of finishing their course with the coveted appointment which lay at the other side of the examination if they had but the strength to hold out. Physical weakness brings mental flabbiness and incapacity. The food was of course nearly all imported so as not to draw upon the scanty supplies of the nation and it was touching to see the zeal with which they enjoyed the almost forgotten tastes of real sugar and of milk that was real though condensed. It was their one hot meal for the day. For the rest they had dry bread with perhaps some substitute coffee without sugar or milk. This meal tasted good!

It is a great joy to contribute to any one’s physical strength

and to help open the way to success, but there is a still more blessed service to be done by the student feeding. Deeper in many of them than the hunger of body is the hunger of soul. The spiritual blockade of these years has touched them sore. To meet an "enemy" and find him a friend brings a real spiritual uplift. As one fellow with a wooden leg and a wooden arm said, "How good it is to feel we have friends in all countries. I was nationalistic at the beginning of the war but *ich musste alles umlernen*" (I had to unlearn all that). If the editors, the writers, the men of science, the leaders of the next years, are in the Universities to-day, what will they learn and "unlearn"? We have established reading rooms with English, French, and American papers, which on account of the low exchange, the Universities are no longer able to purchase. Many of the professors belong to the old days. The students of the world must together make a new day and a world that is one. This ideal waits for expression in empty hearts in Germany to-day.

For this semester the Society of Friends is doing student feeding in eight of the twenty-one Universities of Germany, as well as in Vienna and Warsaw. These are Berlin, Bonn, Breslau, Dresden, Frankfurt, Göttingen, Leipzig, and Munich. In December the work began in Darmstadt, Freiburg, Hamburg, Jena, Kiel, Köln, Münster, Tübingen, and in the Technical High Schools at Aachen, Hannover, and Stuttgart. We have had to cut our plans in two for lack of funds and we shall have to stop in February unless help comes, but it is good to know that for the present eight thousand students are being benefited by our helping in the quality of the scant meals being served to needy students in the regular dining halls, and that of these two thousand will have free meals.

We have found in our student feeding in Germany and Austria that loving and serving "enemies" is not an impractical theory for to-day, but that it leads quickly to the real victory in the understanding of friendship and to new inspirations. Will you try it?

In Macedonia

BY AN ONLOOKER

RETURNING to the Homeland after four years of exile must inevitably reveal much change. This indeed was the case in the northern parts of Macedonia, the desire of many nations. Before the war, Serbian Macedonia contained some of the largest towns in the kingdom; moreover, living was cheaper there than in any other part of Serbia. Thus Skoplje and Monastir, the two largest cities, became important educational centres, most of the students being men from distant villages who were attracted south by the cheapness of living. In Skoplje alone, there were a Normal School, a Commercial School, a large Gymnasium, and a Military School, in addition to which plans were on foot for the opening of a university. During the terrible autumn months of 1915 all these schools were broken up and most of the students returned home. The older ones became soldiers and joined in the great trek across Albania where over thirty thousand schoolboys died of hunger and cold, to say nothing of the soldiers, and latterly fought on the Salonika Front or, if too weak for that, went to the great encampments at Corfu and Bizerta. The younger students were content to return to their homes and live as best they could. When the Serbs returned home in 1918, one of the first thoughts of the Serbian Government was to revive education and provide, as quickly as possible, leaders to fill the terribly depleted ranks of teachers, government officials, doctors, priests, and other professions. What did they find in the way of buildings, and other conditions necessary to return to a normal state? Perhaps it is best to concentrate on one place and show what happened there.

With the soldiers who returned to Serbia there were some Young Men's Christian Association centres, staffed by British secretaries. In charge of the work was Mr. Marcus Wright. He established a thoroughly good centre at Skoplje and himself passed on to Belgrade, leaving another man in charge of Macedonia. One day the Government Inspector of Education for the district came round to see this secretary and to talk over with him the condition of affairs. He had orders to re-open the Normal School and gymnasium at once, then the Commercial School, and to press on with the preparations for a university. Students who had been

in these various schools before the war were beginning to return. Of the older generation but few remained, and they were naturally most anxious to finish their courses as soon as possible. Moreover, the Government needed them urgently. Of those who had left in 1914 as boys of thirteen and fourteen, hundreds returned, seventeen and eighteen years of age, keenly eager to lose no more time and, as far as possible, to make up for the lost four years of schooling. They returned to the town to find destroyed buildings, which meant no lodgings: food at an impossible price, when obtainable, and their own pockets empty. They were literally sleeping on the floors of the cafés and in the streets, whilst living on sour milk and the ration portion of bread.

The other side of the problem which confronted the inspector was that all the school buildings were much demolished, all fittings, such as forms and blackboards, had disappeared, and literally every sort and kind of book in the Serbian language had been burnt by the enemy. Faced with this double problem of restarting schools with nothing but bare walls, and providing for the needs of hundreds of wretched students—he sought the co-operation of the Young Men's Christian Association secretary. He, poor man, was there to meet the needs of the soldiers and had nothing for students. His building was painfully small for housing the canteen and military recreation rooms, to say nothing of a corner for himself. But in such days, and under such conditions, the only possible policy is to use everything that is available. A visit to the cellar revealed some old army tents, and a wire to Salonika Young Men's Christian Association produced two large marquees, no matter how old. Small supplies of food were obtainable from the authorities, and these were supplemented by grants from the relief agencies. Experience proved that these supplies, if divided amongst the recipients as received, proved little good to the receivers for they had not the wherewithal to cook them. So obviously the thing to do was to pool the resources and produce soup. This meant that a boiler was needed, also plates, knives, forks, and spoons. Money was scarce, so economy was necessary. Instead of plates, bowls were obtained, each large enough for four to eat from, and the daily menu being soup, the need for forks and knives disappeared. The main thing was that a hundred men were fed daily with food

that was hot and nourishing, even if there was a lack of variety. That it be hot was important, for fuel for heating purposes was almost unobtainable. So the neediest were fed. One large marquee sufficed. The boiler was outside one end, forms and tables were borrowed from the Army Canteen, and the Young Men's Christian Association secretary sat down to eat with them. A small charge was made (about one-eighth of the price of a meal in town) and with the money odds and ends were purchased to make the soup savoury—such things as paprika which, whilst dear to the hearts of Serbs, are unknown to relief agencies or Government Food Distributors.

The next problem, housing, was infinitely more difficult. Soups can be made with a variety of contributions from various sources, but not so beds and blankets. A few camp beds were kindly given by some British soldiers but, not being made to the measure of Og the King of Bashan, could under no circumstances be made to hold a hundred men. But even small gifts are not to be despised in dire necessity, so the soldiers' offers were accepted and put up in a bell tent. A few blankets were begged from a departing hospital and four men, who had slept on the floor in a café for weeks, were offered beds. Seeing their gifts in use, the British soldiers told their friends, and more gifts were forthcoming. More blankets were obtained from somewhere and so, little by little, the number grew. One tent after another was filled, corridors and attics in the house were almost fought for and for over four months they lived merrily, whilst the noble school inspector tackled his other obstacles and overcame them. When at last the various schools were opened, and provision was made for sleeping and for feeding the poorest, the need grew less and the nature of the work changed with the changing need. Not until this summer did the work in that district finally close down. As may be expected, during that time many and various were the requests of individual students, but the Young Men's Christian Association secretary told me, "Never have I failed to do something for those in real need. The secret is, always to use available material and believe that Christ spoke the truth when He told us to seek first the Kingdom of God and other things will be added."

It was impossible to refrain from asking him if he thought

that such relief really did help men to a knowledge of God. He replied that on this side of the veil we cannot really know. He opened a drawer and showed me a large pile of letters from men all over the country. Taking out one at random he read: — "Do write and let me know of the work of the Association which has been to me the most real home of my life. That," he said, "is from one who has finished his course and is now a teacher." Here is another from a lad who has also finished and is now keeping his two young brothers, orphans like himself. "Certainly I will come to the Y. M. C. A. Conference, for all that I am or have I owe to the Association. There are," he continued, "many such letters in this drawer. And even those who lightly receive benefits now, and quickly forget, will remember in later life. But, surely, it was for a higher motive that we were bidden to feed the hungry and clothe the naked."

Relief and One Undergraduate

By H. C. RUTGERS

IN the spring of 1920 the call from the Federation to help the starving students in Vienna reached the office of the Student Christian Movement of the Netherlands. Its officers had their hands full with the work of their own Movement, and the Movement itself had a very large and increasing deficit to face. Yet they were eager to help, so they looked for some one willing to spend time on this job. A law student, P., was at once thought of, and as soon as approached to do the work of raising the necessary money and food, he immediately promised to try.

It was obviously impossible quickly to raise a sufficient amount from the student body itself; for, first, there had just been several relief collections in the universities; and, secondly, a great number of the students themselves come from the middle classes, so hard hit by the economic consequences of the war. If the needed amount of relief was to be secured in a short time it must be done outside the universities. So it was decided that P. should spend a few weeks getting introductions and visiting merchants.

The first introduction he got from a member of the Student Movement to her father, a shipowner in Rotterdam, who received

him well, and not only gave him a gift, but also introductions to a number of his colleagues. One day and a half spent in Rotterdam gave a net result of £150.

Experience soon taught that, if a man got interested and gave something himself, he was also willing to give introductions to others; also, that if you want to get something worth while from a firm, it is absolutely necessary to see personally the chief director. It is no use seeing subordinates, for then you never get more than a pound or two. Therefore, if your introduction is not sufficient to get yourself admitted, get more and better introductions until you are inside. In one place it was necessary to return several times before a five-minute interview was granted, but the net result was one thousand guilders (£100).

When the visits to Rotterdam had yielded money enough to make sure that the Movement could afford to forward a certain amount of gifts in kind to Vienna, careful attention was given to the list of articles which the appeal had mentioned as especially needed in Vienna, *i.e.*, cocoa, sugar, flour, soap, clothing. For each of these articles introductions were sought to several different factories or firms.

Cocoa came first. A good introduction to a well-known factory yielded six hundred pounds. At the next factory another introduction, coupled with the fact that the colleague had given so much, brought in another five hundred. The third factory could not help doing the same thing.

Cocoa without sugar is a poor thing. So P. made his next dash for sugar. Fortunately, Holland is a sugar producing country. Also, he was lucky enough to get very good introductions to the biggest company. The difficulty always encountered was that every firm said : "We have already given to the 'Save the Children Fund,' to the 'Labourers' Fund,' etc.": only by insisting that they had not yet given for the students, could one get anything. This particular company, however, was difficult to get at, and few collectors had succeeded in seeing its chief directors. So here was comparatively fresh ground, and, apparently, P. arrived at a good moment. The result was a gift of twenty thousand pounds of sugar!

The next item was soap. A little strategy landed him in the room of the director of one of the factories which were doing

a large business. "Yes, I quite understand, but I have already given to so many relief committees for Vienna. . . . Well, I expect students must wash themselves too." Some telephoning with his colleague in another room. "Will you be satisfied with five thousand parcels of half-a-pound each?" A rather staggered look and a joyful assent. Over a ton of soap seemed sufficient to clean the whole of Vienna University for some time!

Several introductions to cloth merchants were also gathered. The first visit yielded a hundred yards of cloth, enough for over thirty suits, on condition that the suits be made in Holland and sent ready-made to Vienna. The next problem was to find a tailor who would do the job gratis. Passing one of the largest shops of ready-made suits, P. thought this shop could do it as well as another. He entered the shop and asked to see the director. "Ah, you mean Mr. So-and-So? His office is round the corner." Round the corner, of course, now the name of the director was discovered, he did not ask to see "the director" but to see "Mr. So-and-so." This gentleman seemed very sympathetic, but, as his shop was only a branch of the concern, he had not authority to grant the request, but offered an introduction to the chief director. With such a good introduction, P. felt it a pity merely to ask for the making of thirty suits; better ask for more cloth. Result—five hundred yards more. And another tailor made the original thirty suits.

Next, some one thought of fish, and so Scheveningen and Katwyk were visited. On enquiry, it was found that all the shopowners formed one union, so he and one of his friends went to see the chairman of the union, who agreed to propose a motion at the next meeting that each member should give one or two barrels of herrings, so that from both places a railway truck of fish could be sent to Vienna students. This plan succeeded splendidly.

Potatoes seemed good to send. These could be got near home, for the farmers of Gramsbergen, the village where P.'s father is doctor, had a lot of potatoes. The ministers and sessions of the churches (Holland is mostly Presbyterian) were taken into confidence, and on Sunday, after the service, the situation was explained to the congregations and each farmer asked to give one or two sacks of potatoes. The whole village, rich and poor,

responded heartily to this call, and two railway trucks with potatoes went from this village to Vienna. This was indeed a real community gift, for even the poorest farmer contributed his share.

In much the same way as these first articles, flour, beans, oil, candles, and other useful things were gathered in.

When the scheme started, the aim was to get one railway truckful of food for Vienna students, but when things went so successfully one truck did not seem satisfactory. The result was that, after two weeks' hard work, P. had a little train of five railway trucks, one with sugar, one with fish, two with potatoes, and one with all kinds of other good things, including fifteen cases of soap, ten of cocoa, three bales and sixty-three cases of flour and cereals, 220 kilos of pulse foods, eight crates and five cases of cheese, sixteen cases of condensed milk; also bales of cloth, and lard, and oil. So, just before Whitsuntide, the trucks were attached to one of the Red Cross trains which regularly went from Rotterdam to Vienna. The transport cost some two thousand guilders, but sufficient money was gathered to pay for this also, through the efforts of other undergraduates in the Dutch universities.

Besides these exertions of P.'s, there were also, of course, collections in the different universities for Vienna, which under the leadership of local committees yielded handsome sums, but my task here is only to describe what one undergraduate did.

Forestry and Food

A LETTER FROM DOWTIN G. THOMAS

DEAR BILL,

When the appeal was made in college last term for the students in Central Europe, you remember I was amongst the sceptics, and heckled the speaker all I knew how. I wanted to know why, under the shining sun, our fellows, who are lots of them earning their way through, should subscribe to support a lot of lazy beggars, who didn't seem to have an idea of working, and who, as far as I was concerned, might starve. Well! I may as well own up—I'm converted, and that soundly. What converted me? Chiefly a few days at the Student Wood-Cutting Camp at Tul-

binger Kogel in the Wiener Wald. You know my dad is persistently interested in the Federation and its doings, so this vacation he gave me a cheque with orders to go and see conditions in Central Europe for myself. Two days in Vienna were quite enough to convince me that the starvation of students there was a grim reality, and quite the best thing I've seen in the way of Relief Work is this Camp, one result of the combined effort of the Federation and the Friends' Relief Mission on behalf of Vienna students.

The scheme was born in the brain of Mrs. Warner, the Camp Commandant; her notion was that students might earn money and health for themselves by felling trees in summer to supply the Vienna Hospitals with cheap fuel in the coalless winter ahead. A Baron conveniently appeared, who had been ordered by the Austrian Government to clear part of his forests, and grow corn, to increase the food output; he provided the ground. Next, the Austrian War Office turned up trumps and tents and crockery and pots and pans and other things on loan, including a Field Kitchen captured by the Austrians from the Russians. The food came mostly from Holland, collected by the Dutch Student Movement for Vienna, while the Friends produced fresh meat once a week, vegetables, and fruit. Behold the Camp equipped; would the students play up? Some folks said "No," but not a bit of it: lots applied, the only trouble being that even a very lenient medical exam. meant that forty per cent. were rejected as completely unfit. Anyhow, on August 6th the Camp started, with forty-five men and twelve women, mostly Austrians, but also a few Poles, Roumanians, and Czechs.

The daily programme is as follows:—

6:30—Breakfast (cocoa and bread).

7—Work begins. The men cut down trees, divide into metre lengths, and stack in cubic metre piles. The girls (those who are not on kitchen duties) cut branches into metre lengths and tie into bundles.

10—Lunch (bread, cheese or bacon), eaten in the woods.

10:30 to 12:30—Continuation of work.

1—Dinner (soup and one other dish—meat, corned and fresh, two or three times a week).

4—Tea (bread or biscuits and jam or peanut butter).

7—Supper (one dish of cereals or vegetables).

10—Lights out.

Not very strenuous hours! But most of them have no stamina, and many had weak lungs and hearts, fevers, and rheumatism, from war conditions. It wasn't safe to overwork them, and work in rain was impossible. Are they made of sugar? No! But scarcely any have two shirts or two pairs of boots, and can't change if wet!

It certainly fattened them! It was rather pathetic to hear the way they talked about the food for hours on end, and most of them delighted openly in a full tummy. The first day they had fresh meat—few had tasted it for months—it produced a colour and a heat in their system, as was obvious in their faces. The unusual sufficiency of food made them greedier than their health would stand, and many had boils as a result, but the conditions soon produced a wonderful fairy-tale difference. Chests expanded, faces filled out, muscles toughened, weights went up, energy increased (noise also!), and lethargy vanished.

The sun was called to aid the cure, and the rash visitor, strolling around on a fine afternoon, would come upon "sun bath parade," rows of copper-coloured savages, in bathing drawers or shorts, sleeping or reading according to taste.

Originally the women students were to do the cooking; but a few days of this system played such havoc with their tummies that a professional cook was engaged. How they did eat! The helpings were enormous, but nothing was ever left over! What they didn't eat at table, they consumed later in their tents—"there's a bad time coming, boys." Poor chaps, they were loth to face starvation again, when camp closed—though, to let them down lightly, they each got a packet of provisions to take down with them—soup tablets, oatmeal, pork and beans, cocoa, coffee, a loaf, biscuits, chocolate, and jam. Every man had the chance, too, of buying his ground sheet (mackintosh, lined with flannel), and a new shirt and new boots—Kr. 300 the lot, *i.e.*, less than ten shillings, English money.

They didn't only work and eat and sleep. There was lots going on besides—football doesn't seem to appeal to them, but we had tug-of-war, tricks, simple games, fireworks, and concerts. We'd a Jazz Band, and an official *Kapelle Meister*—and as for

singing, you'd only to start them and they'd go on for hours. I'm not sure that the international touch wasn't the most valuable thing in the whole show—there were visitors from India, Japan, U.S.A., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, England, Scotland, and Ireland, as well as your humble servant. Did we all work? Well, rather! the C. O. saw to that. The men were fond of talking of other countries and race differences, and there was a general sense that the camp was the work of international good-fellowship.

How much did they really do? Well! about 150 tons of wood were cut and stacked in the five weeks; not bad, when you consider weather, unfitness, and short hours. Of course, there were a few rabbits, who slacked, and put a severe strain on the C.O.'s German vocabulary; but the energetic earned Kr. 200 a week and a few Herculean persons Kr. 400. Some voluntarily did over-time. The Foresters, who superintended operations, were altogether satisfied with the work done.

This means a lot, for these very Foresters originally threatened to go on strike if miserable students from the city were introduced into *their* forests, and only the prompt action of the highly interested British Reparations Committee, in commandeering a bit of the forest, saved the situation for the C. O. and her gang.

So the Vienna Hospitals are 150 tons of wood to the good this winter, and the Vienna public will eat the bread the Baron will grow on his cleared ground! And the students have put by a reserve of strength and money against the cruel winter that's coming, and, better still, have learnt to work with their hands and like it!

Personally, I've never met a scheme which did so much good to so many different people! It's a perfect Omnibus of Varied Welfare!

Well! that's what got *me*! And that's the kind of sane, sound self-help that our European Student Relief Committee will promote elsewhere. What the Friends and the Federation began this summer we mean to continue. All sorts of interesting schemes are in the wind for getting students on the land and—But I'll tell you all about them when we are up again. You may as well know your fate first as last: every man-jack of our

crowd is going to be roped in to do the hardest work of his life in the 'Varsity campaign on behalf of the Federation European Relief Scheme!' So that's that.

Ever yours,

DOWTIN G. THOMAS.

The Experience of American Students in Raising Relief Funds

By GEORGE IRVING

BEFORE the World War, it was considered axiomatic that North American college students could not or would not give out of their own pockets, to any considerable amount, for strictly unselfish purposes. Certain sums, to be sure, were gathered by them each year for missionary objects, but the amounts actually contributed from their own funds were not impressive.

When it was proposed early in the war to secure one hundred thousand dollars from American students for relief work, there were many who discouraged the attempt. A very limited appeal at that time brought a response of over two hundred thousand dollars. When a year later, some hopeful persons spoke of the possibility of securing one million dollars for prisoner-of-war and certain other forms of relief and welfare work, the great majority of interested friends said that it was impossible to secure such a sum from "poor students." Even the splendid Christian business man who consented to become the treasurer of the fund said at its conclusion that he had not expected to receive more than a hundred thousand dollars, at the utmost. When the fund was completed it was discovered that well over a million and a half dollars had been given, exclusively by students and faculty members.

Later, when the United States entered the war, the students gave in similar fashion to a general appeal. It was found difficult to keep a separate account of students' gifts. We know, however, that almost if not quite three million dollars was received from the colleges and universities.

What have been some of the lessons, new or old, that we learned from these relatively great gifts of students? One unmistakable

discovery was that the example of those student bodies which gave heavily at the beginning of the effort to secure subscriptions powerfully influenced the giving of men and women of other institutions. In each of our two major "campaigns," as we call such financial efforts, the students and faculty of one state college set such an example. The thought of blazing the trail in such a cause nerved them to overcome many obstacles. The insight and courage of these collegians stimulated thousands of others to make similar sacrifices.

We learned also that the sacrificial giving of individuals and groups made an indelible and lasting impression upon the lives of fellow-students. Men and women impervious to the ordinary Christian appeal acknowledged the reality and value of a Christian faith which made students who were earning their own college expenses give a hundred dollars and over, as thousands did. The young women who, being without actual money, gave jewelry, found their gifts multiplied many hundred times in the reflex upon their own characters and upon their worldly classmates.

The effect of thousands giving in a worthy way to a great altruistic cause, strengthened and enriched every other worth-while task of the Christian Association in the colleges and universities. This principle needs to be constantly borne in mind by every one eager to advance the Kingdom of God. The value of what we do depends not upon the number of things we do, but upon the degree of intelligent devotion and self-sacrifice with which they are executed. One worth-while task fertilises many other undertakings.

The giving of these funds, moreover, has created an atmosphere in which international good will and eagerness to understand and co-operate with men and women of other lands and races will thrive more readily than in the past.

One other striking result was that our students came to consider as unworthy the well-known injunction, "Give until it hurts." They rose above it and said, "Give and keep on giving to the limit of your capacity," because they had proved that the more you give the more you will want to give and will thank God for the opportunity.

Student Self-Help in Switzerland: A Venture of Faith

By ELIZABETH M. CLARK

THE few non-belligerent countries of Europe, during the Great War, paid dear for their neutrality. Their lot was at best a complicated one; they all had troubles of their own. But little Switzerland, in addition to those of her own, had a great many troubles of a great many other nations to deal with within her borders, not the least of these being the economic problems of the thousands of foreign (*i. e.*, non-Swiss) university students caught and held in the country by the war-storms raging on all sides of her frontier.

Perhaps in no single point was the difference of opinion and standard, among university students of East and West, more noticeable before the war, than in the attitude towards self-support or self-help. That recourse to work, not merely teaching, but business enterprise or even hard manual labour, which to the average American student when in an *impasse* is a matter of course, to the average European student in a financial emergency, is *not!* It wasn't done; it would not be understood or approved of by the general public, or by the professors, any more than by the students themselves.

This before the war. But during the war, and since the war, many things have changed; things and standards and conditions and people. Especially people: the professors and the public and, most of all, the students.

In certain European belligerent countries, the change of attitude has been rapid and radical; but in neutral Switzerland, less so. For this little inland country, surrounded not by water but by fire—Switzerland, cut off and shut in, bounded on north, east, south, and west, during five long years, by its frontier line of flame, has been slower than some of the war countries to show action and re-action. But its student body, far more than half non-Swiss, has had more time to think and to experiment; both for itself and for the rest of the Old World. Its overwhelming proportion of foreigners, eighty per cent. in one of the universities, forms a background so cosmopolitan as to become the

logical meeting point, perhaps eventually the fusion point, of the not yet united states of Europe.

War conditions and pressure have overcome many objections and opened the doors to at least a theoretically free trial of that something new under the sun of that country which suddenly ceased, in 1914, to be the playground of Europe. Even before the war some interesting experiments in student self-help had been made in Switzerland. No sooner did a few of the leaders take the steps preliminary to organisation, than they found that individual students in practically all the educational centres had already been thinking and even experimenting along the same lines, trying to discover means to keep body and soul together while continuing university work.

In Geneva, there was found a man student who during two years had spent his afternoons as a barber's assistant, and had by that means been able to take his Ph. D. degree; in the same city, a woman student was serving at table in a ladies' restaurant. In Zürich, a little group of Serbian women students announced themselves as seriously proposing to start a laundry. In another town, another little group (men this time) were taking it in turn to clean and oil the hardwood floors of a hotel which possessed few carpets. In Lausanne, one girl had found employment for herself, half-days, in a milliner's shop; another woman student, for half-days, was answering questions in a tourist agency; a third was selling picture post cards painted by her sister. While this was going on, a man student was attempting, without startling results, to interest other students in life-assurance policies; another was trying, also without great success, to collect belated board bills for suffering landladies, and a third man student was soliciting orders for an American sewing-machine firm.

In Fribourg, a girl was earning her meals at a small hotel by washing dishes; and a man student (her fiancé, though this detail proves nothing at all) was earning his meals by playing dance accompaniments. At Bâle, where there are fewer foreigners than in any other Swiss university, one of those few, a woman student, was doing dressmaking; while a man student was taking orders for cooking utensils. In Neuchâtel, two girls were trying to sell, by mail, the marvellous lace made by their mother at home in the Balkans. In Berne, there was a man-student chauffeur,

and a woman student who had advertised her willingness to amuse children in the afternoon, or take them out to walk.

* * *

What of this enumeration of occupations, prosaic and ordinary and uninteresting in American eyes? This, that it was almost cataclysmic for students in Switzerland five or six years ago. Every individual instance mentioned in the list represents an amount of independent thinking and a degree of moral courage incomprehensible to the mind of the Anglo-Saxon student accustomed to looking upon the dignity of labour as axiomatic.

When the World's Student Christian Federation, acting through the Swiss Student Christian Association, was ready to open its first employment offices, it was a help to find that the ground had been already in some small measure prepared by individual initiative and especially by individual thinking along the lines of work versus loans (the latter being in most instances merely a euphemistic term for gifts).

As could only be expected, the proposition to establish any kind of agencies for student employment, other than the giving of lessons, met with general opposition as an attempt to superpose the new upon the old, the West upon the East—in short, to graft American vines upon the trunk of a longer established civilisation. Moreover, the fact that the students most in need of finding employment were foreigners, made it doubly difficult to establish a contact between demand and supply. For the foreigner was very much a foreigner: and this not merely in respect to language, logically an insuperable barrier to the obtaining of teaching or secretarial positions—but also essentially a foreigner, an alien in spirit, unaccustomed to Swiss ways of thinking as of doing. The American college girl who does housework in her own professor's family, to pay for her board or for the purpose of sending her personal contribution to the Student Friendship Fund, is not as a rule stepping far out of her own home environment; whereas the Slav woman student who, driven by war pressure, expressed her willingness to earn her way by housework in a Swiss family, was showing heroism on her own part, and requiring heroism from the capable Swiss housewife, but she was also courting disaster. One employment secretary who registered twenty-nine attempts or offers, found three engagements for housework that lasted for

two months each, and one that lasted for two years. Domestic service, even on the part-time basis, is not the solution of the European student's economic problem. There are too many variants of the factor of incompatibility.

Experiments along other lines of work have been far more successful. In August, 1914, immediately after the declaration of war, the Neuchâtel local Christian Association made arrangements for a group of about twenty-five women students to work by the day picking peas on a large vegetable farm situated on a picturesque island. In Geneva, the secretary for men students inaugurated a most interesting experiment in the form of an agricultural colony. The Jewish students, who proposed this to him, said that they had in mind as the ultimate objective, the preparation for an agricultural colony in Palestine "after the war." Student Employment Bureaus have been started and carried on with degrees of success varying according to the locality, the year, and the leader. The idea of student self-support, especially organised self-support, has been slow to take root; it has not been easy to find employment for the many, a steadily increasing number, who have sought it. The difficulty is, of course, always greatly enhanced for foreigners by the fact that very, very few possess sufficient command of another language for teaching or secretarial positions, whereas those represent just the kind of work that would naturally appeal to students most strongly. As a matter of fact, in two employment offices for students, the one demand that constantly exceeded the supply was for secretarial help. This not necessarily even for stenography, but for accurate typewriter copying. The only limits to the amount of work that could have been given out, or to the money that might have come in, were measured by the insufficient supply of typewriters, and by the lack of training. For alas, not even by hand can the meandering hieroglyphics of a professor's notes be satisfactorily transcribed without a perfect command of all the language rules and exceptions.

In spite of difficulties and adverse circumstances, an encouraging amount of success has been attained. Men students have worked at carpentry, canvassing, farming; in vineyards, in barber shops, and in messenger service; as chauffeurs, hotel porters, concierges, and guides for tourists. One graduate student, already in

possession of two Ph. D. degrees, was thankful to drive a cart and deliver heavy boxes for a firm whose employes had threatened to go on strike when they heard that an office position had been offered to a Slav. So the twice-over Ph. D. acted as carter until he won the confidence of masters and men, and was offered an architect's desk of his own in that same firm.

Women students have done sewing, knitting, embroidery, fruit-preserving, picking and drying vegetables, fine ironing, reading aloud, and convalescent nursing; have taken children to walk or supervised lessons and games. One took a position as telephone operator in a summer hotel, where a friend of hers, another foreign woman student, was in charge of the hotel linen.

Common to both groups have been the registrations for translating work (into their own language, whichever one of about thirty it might happen to be)—as also for piano accompaniments and the giving of lessons in music, skating, *et cetera*. Most of the foreign students have been sensible enough to recognise their incapacity for tutoring in the language or subjects of the country, and have registered for recreational employments. Common also to both groups were the applications for those occupations naturally most sought for by university men and women, such as research work and laboratory or library positions, with many rather naïve registrations for newspaper reporting, typewriting, and stenography. The question of the mother-tongue plays a part the importance of which can hardly be exaggerated, in rendering difficult for foreigners the obtaining of positions in which impeccable command of the language medium is essential. It is easy to overrate one's ability in such matters; and yet a little personal optimism is not to be decried in a situation so full of elements that tend to discouragement.

Why do not European students work for themselves? you ask. And the answer is, But they do. Not all of them, by any means, but a steadily increasing number, and with steadily increasing success.